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Stark County Law Library Association

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BEGINNERS

A Searching Wrap-Up

**The email
address,
info@starklaw
library.org
really works!
TRY IT!!**

Special points of interest:

- Use a portal to search in a specific field
- Use a directory to find general information
- TONIC offers an interactive search tutorial

A few general tips for good searching would include:

1. Pick a search engine and get to know it WELL!
2. Use quotation marks, the add and subtract symbols
3. Before you begin any search — THINK of the best tool to use to get the results you want!
 - Use search engines when you're looking for a specific piece of information.
 - Use a meta-search engine to scan the Web, to get a general feel for the coverage of a topic, or to find known works or quick facts.
 - Use a portal or vortal when your quarry is in a very specific field.
 - Use directories when you're looking for general information or when you're not sure where to begin
4. If at first you don't succeed, add another search term preceded by "+"!

"Find Everything Faster: From big-time search engines to specialty sites, we uncover the best tools for tracking down facts, news, people, music, and more," an article for PCWorld.com by Michael Gowan and Scott Spanbauer is a good wrap-up article reviewing much

of the material that we covered over the past few months. It is located on the web at <<http://www.http://www.pcworld.com/features/article/0,aid,55383,00.asp>> Adobe does not recognize commas.

Another good source of review information is from The Virtual Chase site: "How To Do It With Research!" at: <<http://www.virtualchase.com/howto/index.html>>

TONIC at: <<http://www.netskills.ac.uk/TonicNG/cgi/sesame?tn>> is based in England and much of the material is geared to that audience, but the section on searching the Internet is still very good whether you choose to download the tutorial or register (it's free) and use the interactive version. ¹

Some good resources for keeping up-to-date on Web searching are:

- Search Engine Watch at: <<http://www.searchenginewatch.com>>
- Search Engine Showdown at: <<http://www.searchengineshowdown.com>>
- The Botspot at: <www.botspot.com/>
- Librarians' Index to the Internet at: <www.lii.org/search/file/maillinglist> ²

As for the future of searching, read "Sharp Shows Off a Chatty Search Agent" A new interface allows users to talk to computer-generated characters to

INTERMEDIATE

DayPop & Blogs

DayPop can best be described as a “current events” search engine.

Do you know that most of the conventional search tools only update their indexes every twenty or thirty days? Even Google (the king of search engines) normally updates once every four weeks. Google does update certain sites as timely as 24 hours. The sites that are updated more often are the ones that have rapidly changing content and a high user base.⁴

If you are looking for current or breaking news you need DayPop - it indexes all of its sites at least daily.⁵

Daypop can best be described as a “current events” search engine. Daypop crawls what has come to be called the “living web.” That is, websites that are updated on a daily basis, which includes newspapers, online magazines, and weblogs (opinion columns). In November Daypop indexed 5,500 plus news sites and weblogs every day.⁶ It now indexes over 6,500 sites.⁷

To perform a search, just enter your search terms and select searching all pages, news, or weblogs. The results provide a link, a brief description of the article, and the file size.⁸

For an advanced search, go to: <http://www.daypop.com/advanced> where you can limit your search

- By time range from right now up to 3 hours or even 2 weeks worth of information
- In your choice of 10 languages
- From your choice of 35 countries
- Plus, you have the ability to save the settings as advanced preferences.⁹

Has DayPop replaced Moreover as the best news aggregator? The November 2001 issue of *The Information Advisor* offers opinions on Moreover and DayPop.

What the authors liked about Moreover was its timeliness, coverage of top quality sources, value for information professionals, and speed. The same goes for DayPop.

They recommend both services, but warn that each offers certain advantages over the other.

In Moreover's favor is the ability to use Boolean operators, which can be quite important for certain searches. They also like the fact that it groups its sources into categories so you can view all its sources.

As for DayPop, they like date restrictions, the cached pages, and language/country limits. And then, of course, there are those intriguing Web logs (which you can search separately or at the same time as general news sources). Also, DayPop does not restrict you to a maximum of 20 returned pages, as Moreover does.

“So, bottom line: we now have two favorite current news search engines: Moreover and DayPop.”¹⁰

The word weblog or blog, as it is commonly called, has appeared many times in this article so it probably needs a definition. A blog is a “Web page that has short, frequent updates made to it. Similar to a Web journal or ‘what's new’” page.¹¹

A very good example of a blog is Dan Chan's. Dan was the creator of Daypop and has also created a weblog for information on its development located at: <http://www.danchan.com/weblog/daypop>. This site contains information on each small improvement and instructions as they are made. More of blogs next month.

ADVANCED “Tech Zealots and Techno Peasants”

Listed below are Debra Hix-Sykes' ten tips for bridging the gap between those who embrace new communications technology and those who resist.

1. Set minimum internal requirements such as utilizing email, computerized research, technology procedures, forwarding email attachments and more.
2. Set minimum external requirements such as utilizing slide shows for presentations, accessing email remotely, describing the organization's technology to potential and existing clients and more.
3. Include technology objectives in the organization's strategic plan and generously share this information with everyone, including clients.
4. Ideally, if practical, attempt to have a zealot mentor a peasant. Convincing the zealot to mentor a peasant may be easier if you explain that bringing the peasant's skill levels up will quicken the organization's ability to move forward technologically.
5. Consistently send the message that the technology will continue to evolve. This will assist the peasant in accepting that technology is here to stay as well as helping the zealot to patiently await future advancements.
6. Attempt to dispel techno stereotypes, as well as foster an environment of tolerance, acceptance and respect for different learning styles and levels of interest.
7. Make technology implementation seamless. Peasants may accept technology more readily if it is not disruptive.
8. Make the organization's commitment to technology consistently visible. For example, include it in the organization's client intake procedures.
9. Slowly wean peasants from paper or non-techno functions. Provide a future cut-off date and attempt to have a balance of the old and the new prior to the "cut-over."
10. Alter new lawyer orientation to include technology needs assessments and appropriate training and mentoring.¹²

Following are some examples of recent informative articles on this topic.

One is “IT Directors Are From Mars, Lawyers Are From Venus: An Interplanetary Roundtable on Relationships” by Carlyn Kolker and Mark Voorhees in AmLaw Tech on March 4, 2002. It is located on the Web at: <http://www.law.com/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/AppLogic+FTContentServer?pagename=law/View&c=Article&cid=ZZZH6NWJ0YC&live=true&cst=1&pc=0&pa=0&s=News&ExpIgnore=true&showsummary=0>

In Genie Tyburski's review of Kolker's article, “Making Technology Work in a Law Firm” she reinforces “Tip 4” by quoting one of the lawyers in the roundtable discussion:

On change and using new technology, a lawyer says, "I think the dirty little

Special points of interest:

- Ten tips for bridging the gap
- “IT Directors Are from Mars, Lawyers Are from Venus: An Interplanetary Roundtable on Relationships”
- “Making Technology Work in a Law Firm”
- “Computer Training Best in 'Byte-Size' Chunks”
- “TechnoLawyer Reborn: Now Ready for the Masses”

ADVANCED

"Tech Zealots and Techno Peasants" (Continued)

secret of technology proliferation is that it proliferates from attorney to attorney.¹³

"Computer Training Best in 'Byte-Size' Chunks" expands upon Hix-Sykes' "Tip #7".

Bite-size training on a regular schedule helps employees retain more information and reinforces what they previously learned. The article is located on the Web at: <http://www.netforlawyers.com/computer_training.htm>¹⁴

Another good article is, "TechnoLawyer Reborn: Now Ready for the Masses" by Chris Santella, located on the Web at <<http://www.llrx.com/extras/technolawyer.htm>>

"TechnoLawyer provides a forum for the legal community to pose questions about areas of technology that are important to the legal community," said Thomas Workman, a solo practitioner in Taunton, Massachusetts. "The key is that there is a free exchange of ideas and solutions, from and between those who have immediate problems and concerns, and others who have either been through the same process, or who are willing to share their expertise."¹⁵

The TechnoLawyer currently offers twelve newsletters, all of them free published at varying intervals. For more information, visit <<http://www.technolawyer.com>>.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁵ Coltery, Simon. "Today's Tipple—Daypop.com" 10 Dec 01. Free Pint Limited. 12 Mar 02. <http://www.freepint.com/bar/read.php?i=14533&FreePint_Session=b26565c0501aa9bd10680de430912a5f>
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- ⁷ "What is Daypop?" DAYPOP. 12 Mar 02 <<http://www.daypop.com/about.htm>>
- ⁹ "Advanced Search" DAYPOP. 12 Mar 02 <<http://www.daypop.com/advanced>>
- ¹⁰ (Excerpt from the November, 2001 Information Advisor) "DayPop, Web Logs, Bloggers-You Call This Serious News?" Posting of Robert Berkman, rberkman@aol.com, to Lawlib@ucdavis.edu (Jan. 11, 2002) <<http://lawlibrary.ucdavis.edu/LAWLIB/Jan02/0253.html>>
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- ¹⁵ Santella, Chris. "TechnoLawyer Reborn: Now Ready for the Masses." LLRX.com. 1 Feb 02. Law Library Resource Xchange, LLC. 12 Mar 02. <<http://www.llrx.com/extras/technolawyer.htm>> cited in TVC Alert, 5 Feb 02.